



Information Item

Date: September 4, 2009

To: Mayor and City Council
From: Chuck McBride, Assistant Finance Director
Subject: Massage Technician Permit Requirements

Introduction

In order to correct misinformation as to the City's requirements for massage technician permitting which has been reported to staff, the Finance Department is sending clarifying letters to each of the 41 businesses which provide massage services.

Discussion

The City's recently amended ordinance provides massage technicians with the option of either obtaining a City permit or state certification in order to provide massage services in Santa Monica. On May 26, 2009 City Council extended the expiration date for existing massage technician permits by two months to August 31, 2009, to enable technicians to either renew their City permit or obtain state certification so as to not impose any undue hardship in complying with City ordinances. Effective September 1, 2009, massage therapists with a valid state certification are not required to obtain a Santa Monica massage technician's permit.

All massage technicians who held Santa Monica massage technician permits which expired on June 30, 2009, were notified that the City Council had amended the City's municipal code extending that expiration date to August 31, 2009. All massage technicians with current permits were further notified that in order to work in Santa Monica after August 31, 2009, when their permits expired, they would be required to either renew their City permit or provide proof of state certification. As of September 1,

2009, all massage technicians who have not held a City permit are required to either apply for a City permit or provide proof of state certification.

The independent non-profit organization, the California Massage Therapy Council (CAMTC), which is charged with implementation of the state certification program for massage technicians, has been unable to meet the statutory requirements for issuing certifications beginning September 1, 2009. The CAMTC is unable to provide a date certain by when it will begin issuing state certifications. It is not certain that all massage technicians who apply for state certification will meet those requirements and receive state certification.

In order to insure that all massage businesses are providing accurate information on massage technician permitting requirements to both current and potential employees, the Finance Department is sending clarifying letters to each of the 41 businesses which are licensed to provide massage services, informing them of the City's requirements.

Prepared By: Pamela McGarvey, Revenue Collection Administrator